

Getting' Reilled up

Forty-Second Ward alderman elect hits the meeting circuit

By LARS SORENSON

Contributing Writer

Alderman-elect for the 42nd Ward, Brendan Reilly has found that he has his work cut out for him once he steps in to office on May 21. For one, he has some big shoes to fill on the personality front, as he replaces the departing Burton Natarus, alderman for more than 30 years. This may be a secondary concern for him. But on the policy front, he is determined to prove that the ward will be much better off Natarus-less.

After attending a heated community meeting the night before on a proposed 125-story

Chicago Spire to be built in the Streeterville neighborhood, Reilly spoke before residents of the Fulton River District, who were equally concerned about development issues of their own.

Addressing Linda Ewing, President of the Fulton River District Association, and other residents of the neighborhood, he began, "I explained to Linda that we would be changing a few things in the neighborhood related to communication and community development." This statement was followed by the loudest applause of the evening.

"One of the things that was lacking was the free flow of information on development. And I hope to change this," he said.

As part of this promise, Reilly explained that he would be working to produce a monthly newsletter for residents, updating them



Brendan Reilly

on development projects, and would be organizing a constituent service office, at a yet undetermined location, though not in City Hall. He also plans to meet with community organizations like the Fulton River District Association on a quarterly basis, rather than on an annual one, as was the practice in the past.

"I want to increase transparency," he said.

The city provides for a chief of staff and two assistants at a constituent service office, but Reilly said that he would provide more staff with the remaining money in his campaign fund. The office would be open on the weekend to supplement his office hours at City Hall.

In any case, Reilly will be quitting his day job soon, working public relations for AT&T, to assume his new one in City Hall.

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